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Malnutrition and its underlying causes among vulnerable populations living in the makeshift site and in the host communities in Bangladesh refugee camp

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Acute and chronic malnutrition are associated with disease and death. Prevalence of malnutrition is positively correlated with children's mortality rates in refugee camps (Kutupalong, Cox's Bazar-Bangladesh). Children under five years have the highest death rates of all refugees. It is thought that malnutrition related morbidity and mortality are preventable. Assessment of nutritional status with anthropometry is practical and acceptable on an international level. Further more survey suggested that the ability to monitor a population over time helps identify the effectiveness of nutrition interventions. Baseline prevalence data and monitoring malnutrition are necessary to evaluate and implement adequate programme support to Myanmar refugee children in Bangladesh. An estimated quarter of million refugees have been forced to flee Myanmar due to conflict and burning of villages without basic essentials. Nearly 3,40,000 Rohingya children are living in squalid conditions in Bangladesh camps where they lack enough food, clean water and health care facilities. Desperate living conditions and waterborne diseases are life threatening for children aged six to 59 months. High levels of severe acute malnutrition among young children have been found in the camps. It is estimated that one in every five children under the age of five is suffering from acute malnutrition and about 14,500 children suffer severe acute malnutrition. Bangladesh is a developing country with huge population; hence, it is very difficult to host Rohingya population in a country like Bangladesh. As a result, Rohingyas and their children do not having basic rights to live their livelihood. At the Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh refugees camps, nutrition assessment is not conducted regularly; however, health agencies provide monthly growth monitoring. Acute and chronic malnutrition is therefore, very high in the largest population in the new settlement Cox's Bazar refugee camp.

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